



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

February 9, 2005

News Release

PENSACOLA RESIDENT ARRESTED ON CHILD PORN CHARGES

Computers containing child pornography images seized

PENSACOLA, FL— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today the arrest of a 52-year-old U.S. citizen living in Florida's Panhandle for possession of child pornography.

Michael S. Patterson has been the target of a multi-agency investigation conducted by ICE Special Agents and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) since March 2003 when ICE's Cyber Crimes Center received information from Interpol officers working in Germany regarding his alleged illicit activity.

Patterson, who was arrested at his residence, had two computers containing child pornography still pictures and video. ICE seized the two computers that will serve as evidence for the prosecution.

"We are committed to protecting young people who are exploited by child predators," said Raymond M. Connolly, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE's Tampa office. "ICE will continue its intense efforts in identifying, arresting and deporting these monsters."

Patterson is detained at the Escambia County Jail pending the outcome of his case.

His arrest is part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including foreign nationals who've committed crimes against children, child sex tourists, human traffickers and those who trade in child pornography. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,900 predators nationwide.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.